

# Sewer Lateral Line Discussion

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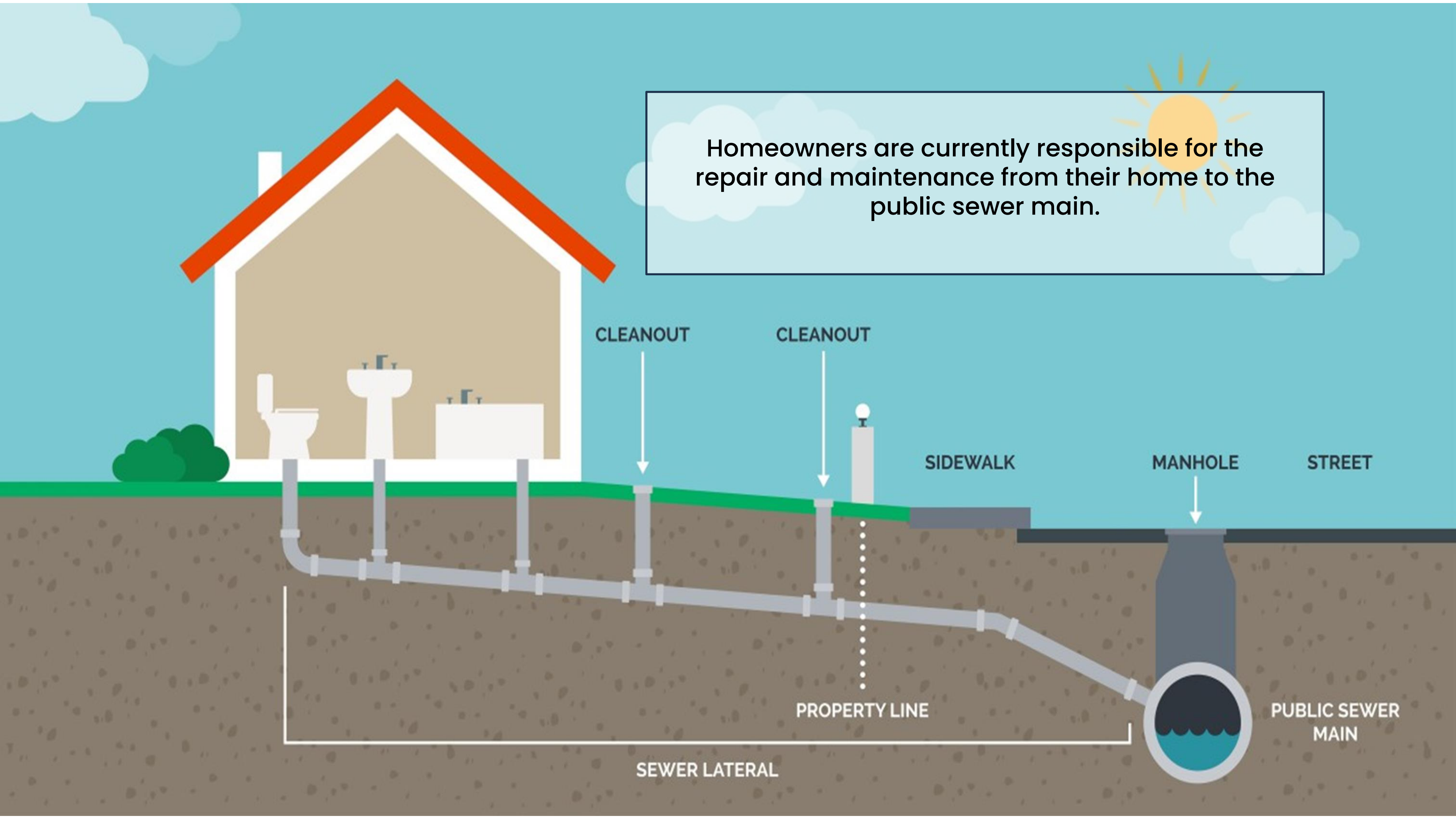


**WATER UTILITIES**  
**LEE'S SUMMIT**

# Current Challenges

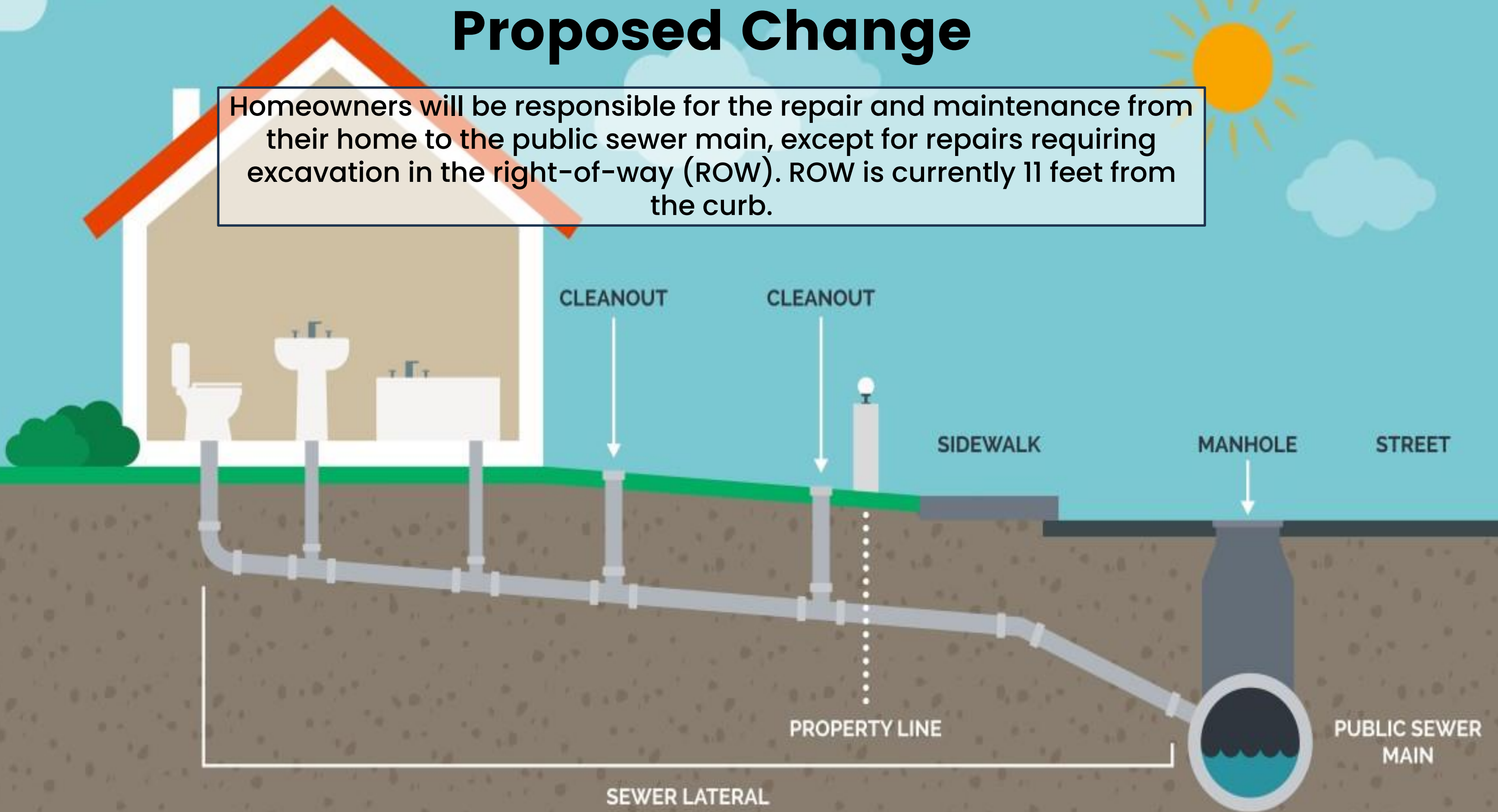
- The repair of sewer lateral lines in the right-of-way (ROW) has been a discussion point for many years
- Significant cost to repair in the right of way
- Homeowners' have a difficult time hiring/finding contractors to perform the work
- Potential impacts to the public infrastructure
- Complexity of the work

Homeowners are currently responsible for the repair and maintenance from their home to the public sewer main.



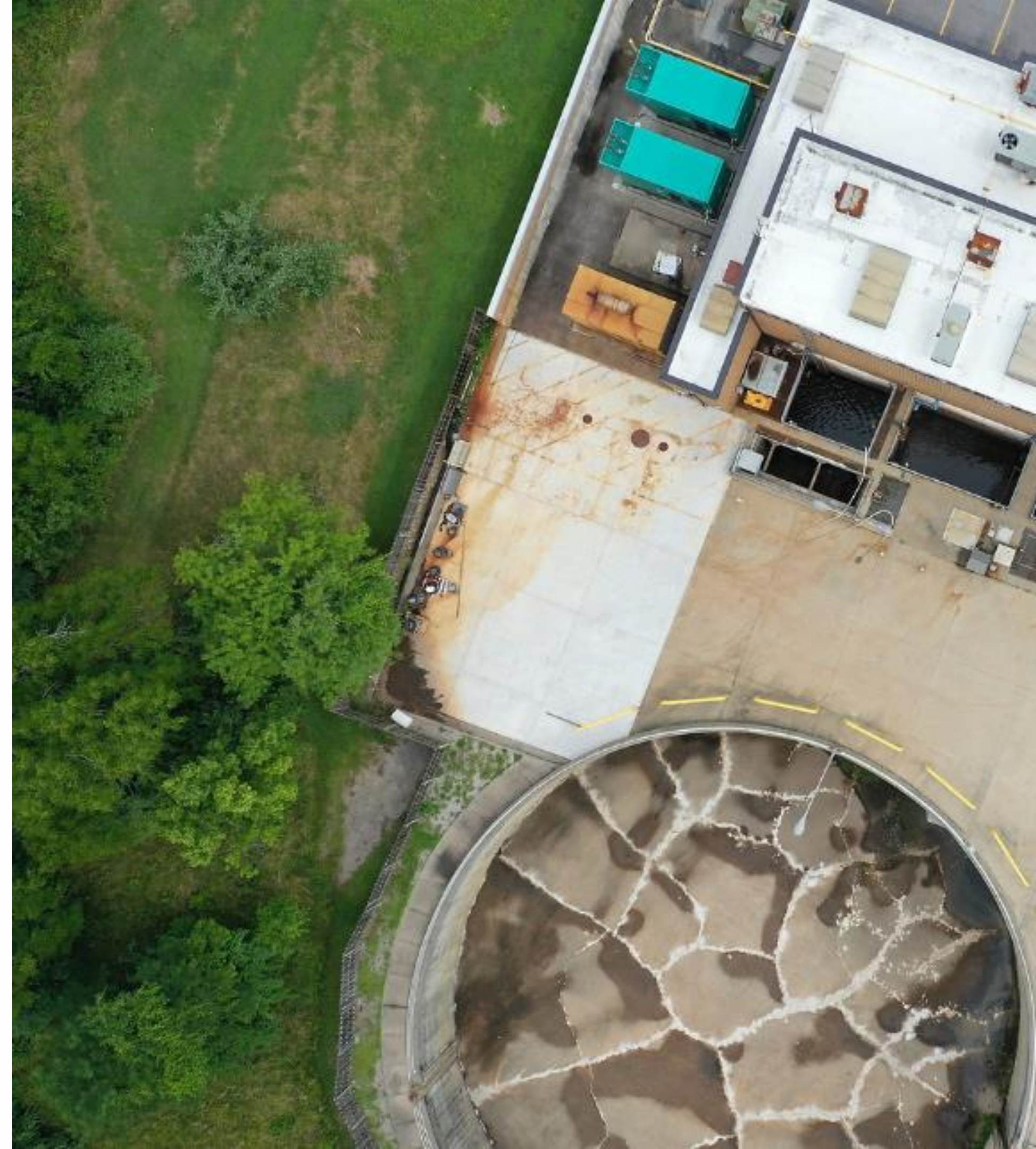
# Proposed Change

Homeowners will be responsible for the repair and maintenance from their home to the public sewer main, except for repairs requiring excavation in the right-of-way (ROW). ROW is currently 11 feet from the curb.



# Other Communities

- Level of Service varies among communities
  - Some communities provide repairs only in the ROW at City Cost
  - Others charge an annual fee and provide repairs
  - Some provide limited reimbursement for sewer lateral repairs
  - Many recommend and endorse sewer lateral insurance
  - Most follow our current practice



# Recommendations

- Create a departmental policy to enable the repair of sewer laterals requiring excavation in the ROW.
  - Single Family Only
    - Attached and Detached
    - Owner Occupied
- Continue recommending private insurance policies and provide customer education regarding companies that offer additional insurance opportunities:
  - American Water Resources
  - HomeServe
  - Homeowners existing insurance in some cases



# Proposed Policy Requirements

- Sanitary Sewer Lateral Repair Policy
  - Ownership and maintenance of the sanitary sewer lateral and connection remains with the resident
  - Repairs not requiring excavation in the ROW are the owner's responsibility
  - LSWU will repair structural failures requiring excavation in the ROW only
    - Homeowners shall apply and provide all required information such as:
      - Complete formal application as required
      - Video of the structural defects
      - Evidence that the repair requires excavation and is located in the ROW
    - Subject to approval, the cost to repair the sewer lateral, excavation, and restoration the ROW will be paid for by the department.
    - Repairs will be scheduled during normal business hours.

# The policy does not provide for general maintenance

Residents are still required to perform general maintenance and repairs to the sewer lateral.

- Problems due to root intrusions, grease, flushable wipes, or other materials, remain the responsibility of the homeowner.
- Issues that can be solved without excavation within the ROW remain the responsibility of the homeowner.
- Damages as a result of lateral backups remain the responsibility of the homeowner.



# Estimated Cost to the Utility



- The anticipated number of potential lateral repairs is 20 per year.
- The estimated cost to repair a lateral under pavement is \$6,000.
- Total estimated annual impact to the department is \$120,000.

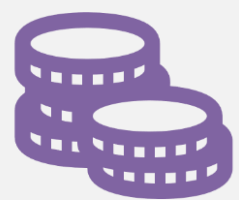
# What's Next?



Develop a departmental policy that contains all requirements



Budget \$120K for pilot lateral repair program



Track the repairs and cost for one year



Report to WUAB with one year of history and revisit this recommendation

**Questions?**

# **WUAB Motion**

I move to recommend that Water Utilities creates a policy for the repair of sewer laterals in the Right of Way. \$120,000 shall be budgeted for this pilot program and the results shall be reported back to WUAB in one year.